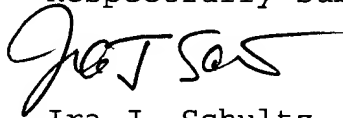


REMARKS

The claims have been amended to delete all multiple dependencies and to place the claims in generally better form for U.S. practice.

Attached hereto is the Search Report of the corresponding French application, together with copies of references cited therein, which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449.

Respectfully submitted,



Ira J. Schultz
Registration No. 28666

APPENDIX

Page 1, line 1: [Technical field] Field of the invention;

line 6: [State of the art] DESCRIPTION OF RELATED ART.

Page 2, line 11: [Description of the invention] SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

Page 10, above line 1: [CLAIMS] What is claimed is:

1. (Amended) A filtration method for liquid metal [by having] comprising passing said liquid metal [pass] on a bed of refractory particulate material [characterized in that the particulate material has] having an open porosity between 5 and 30%.

2. (Amended) The filtration method according to claim 1, [characterized in that the residence time of] wherein the liquid metal has a residence time in the particulate material bed [is] greater than 1 sec and less than 500 secs.

3. (Amended) The filtration method according to [any of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the porosity substantially stems from pores with a diameter greater than 10 μm [and preferably between 10 and 200 μm].

4. (Amended) The filtration method according to [any of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the material has a particle size between 0.2 and 20 mm and the bed has a thickness between 4 and 40 cm.

5. (Amended) The filtration method according to [any of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the material is electrofused corundum.

6. (Amended) The filtration method according to [any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the liquid metal is selected from the group consisting of [aluminium] aluminum, magnesium [or their] and alloys thereof.

7. (Amended) The filtration method [for obtaining corundum] according to claim 5, [characterized in that it comprises] wherein the corundum is obtained by method steps comprising electrofusion of alumina, a casting, a cooling and solidification in order to obtain said porosity, a crushing, then a screening process.

8. (Amended) A corundum used in the method according to [any of claims 1 to 6, or obtained according to the method of] claim [7] 5, [characterized in that it has] having a porosity between 5 and 30%.

9. (Amended) A filtration device for liquid metal including the [material] corundum according to claim 8.